

What is claimed is:

- [cl001] 1. A method comprising:
- a. selecting at least one founder;
 - b. identifying a very large family from the founder;
 - c. linking the very large family to a disease database;
 - d. determining an incidence of disease by calculating which and how many individuals within the very large family have the disease;
 - e. comparing the incidence of disease in the very large family to a general population incidence of disease; and
 - f. assessing a statistical significance of the disease incidence in the very large family.
- [cl002] 2. A method as in claim 1, comprising:
determining a relative risk of incidence of disease for the very large family.
- [cl003] 3. A method as in claim 2, comprising:
determining a relative risk of incidence of disease for an individual within the very large family.
- [cl004] 4. A method as in claim 1, comprising:
obtaining DNA samples from individuals with disease and their family within the very large family.
- [cl005] 5. A method as in claim 4 comprising:
identifying identity-by-descent regions within the DNA samples.
- [cl006] 6. A method as in claim 5, comprising:
identifying a susceptibility gene within the identity-by-descent regions.
- [cl007] 7. A method comprising:
determining a relative risk of incidence of disease for a very large family.
- [cl008] 8. A method as in claim 7, comprising:

[illegible]

[c1009] 9. A method comprising:

- a. obtaining DNA samples from individuals with disease and their family within a very large family; and
- b. identifying identity-by-descent regions within the DNA samples.

[cl010] 10. A method as in claim 9, comprising:

identifying a susceptibility gene within the identity-by-descent regions.